

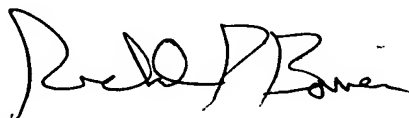
## II. Remarks

Claims 1-116 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 23, 45, 53, 63, 77, 84, 89, 91, 105, 110, and 115 are independent.

The specification has been amended to conform with the amended specification of the parent application, U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/182,475. No new matter has been added.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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